

The following information on the Remsen family is here reprinted from the New York Daily News of Wednesday, April 29, 1981, p.

Fights to resurrect spirit of Remsen

By Bernard Rabin

Ghosts are stirring in Queens, ghosts of the Revolutionary War era. And it's all taking place at and around a small triangular plot in Forest Hills with the unlikely cross-street names of Alderton St. and Trotting Course Lane.

The busy thoroughfares of Metropolitan Ave., Woodhaven Blvd. and where Yellowstone Blvd. becomes Cooper Ave. are but a stone's throw away from the quiet tree-lined residential area. And on a clear day, the quiet vistas of St. John's Cemetery can be seen.

Along Trotting Course Lane, if you believe and listen close, can be heard the dim shouts of those early settlers who came to watch the local farmers and others race their best horses along a long-gone racetrack, hence the street name.

Stirring the pot of history is a 23-year-old college student from Forest Hills whose hobby is history, with emphasis on the Revolutionary War and its effect locally. He is engaged in a campaign to secure landmark status for tiny Remsen Square and Remsen Cemetery at Alderton and Trotting Course.

Declaring that part of "America's heritage is laid to rest in the cemetery," Michael Albetta Jr. is also trying to get borough officials to declare May 24 Remsen Day in Queens in honor of Col. Jeromus Remsen and his family, all of whom were patriots in the American Revolution.

Now a student at Pace University and also legislative assistant to Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio (D-Richmond Hill), Albetta became aware of the Remsen Cemetery and its history when he was a 10-year-old student in nearby PS 144.

He said he had always seen the tiny cemetery and its broken headstones, which lies just off Metropolitan Ave., but didn't become interested in it until the school changed its name to the Jeromus Remsen Elementary School.

In making the change, school officials said it was done to honor the Revolutionary War military leader and native of Forest Hills who led his ragged army of Continental soldiers, most of them farmers like himself, against the supposedly invincible British Army.